

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4259

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FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OLA ULLSTEN ISSUED THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT REGARDING TRIALS AGAINST DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION:
"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FINDS THE PROCESS WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY
AGAINST DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION DEEPLY ALARMING AND ALIEN
TO SWEDISH CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE. THOSE WHO STAND ACCUSED HAVE
ASSUMED THE TASK OF SEEING TO IT THAT THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT IS
HONORED. THIS CANNOT BY ANY REASONABLE STANDARD BE REGARDED
AS A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE. THESE TRIALS HAVE BEEN PRECEDED BY
A NUMBER OF SIMILAR TRIALS IN RECENT TIMES. ONE CANNOT ESCAPE
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE, SINCE THE
BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, REVERTED TO A
HARDER ATTITUDE TOWARD DISSIDENTS. TRIALS OF THIS SORT ARE IN
CONFLICT WITH THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONS
SIGNATORY TO THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT."

2. COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) LEADER LARS WERNER, THE ONLY OTHER PARTY
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LEADER TO ADDRESS THE MATTER, SAID: "THE TRAILS IN THE SOVIET UNION
AGAINST SO-CALLED DISSIDENTS HAVE AROUSED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION
AND PROTEST. IF ONLY A FRACTION OF THE INFORMATION EMERGING IN
CONNECTION WITH THESE TRIALS IS CORRECT, THE REACTIONS ARE
QUITE EASY TO UNDERSTAND. FREE AND OPEN DEBATE IS A CORNERSTONE
IN THE SOCIALIST IDEAL THAT WE PROFESS."

3. TWO MEMBERS OF THE RIKSDAG RUNE TORWOLD (CENTER PARTY) AND NILS HORBERG (LIBERAL PARTY), BOTH FROM GOTEBOG, HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CALL UPON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO TAKE A STAND REGARDING SWEDEN'S REACTION TO THE TRIALS. THE REQUEST HAS GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE STOCKHOLM-BASED SHCHARANSKY COMMITTEE.

4. THE SHCHARANSKY COMMITTEE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL WILL CONVENE IN STOCKHOLM IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO INVESTIGATE THE SHCHARANSKY CASE. AMONG POLITICANS, WRITERS AND RESEARCHERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND INCLUDE SAUL BELLOW AND PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE UK AND FRANCE.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION THUS FAR TO THE VERDICTS AND SENTENCING. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN FORWARDED BY STOCKHOLM 2680.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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